

EDUCATING A SON

Chos skyong skyabs ཇོ་སྐྱོང་སྐལ་བཟང་།

Rdo rje hadn't been able to sleep after watching Ken Robinson's TED talk.² It had shaken him and gone through his mind again and again.

From a traditional herding area, he had graduated from a university, met a woman from a traditional family, and two years later, they married and moved to the County Town. Rdo rje had majored in early childhood education while at university and hoped to work in this area, but the reality was such that he found a government job in an entirely different field.

Time passed. He became a father and wanted to do what was right for his son. Rdo rje was a very responsible father, carefully teaching his son how to read, greet and show respect to others, and so on. He also wanted to ensure his son received an excellent education and be the top student in his class. He sent his son to kindergarten when he was four-years-old and then to primary school. His son's marks were good and he was the top student in his class. Rdo rje was very pleased. To reinforce his son's study, he sent him to a monastery to study Tibetan during the summer and winter holidays. Sometimes, he also sent his son to training centers to learn English and Chinese. By grade five, the boy could recite many things he had learned in school and the monasteries.

The boy's mother was very traditional. The son had learned many things from her. Many people liked the boy because he was very obedient. He never thought independently because he had been taught to listen and obey others and imitate those the elders around him praised.

Eventually, he attended high school and was a top student. Rdo rje was very proud of his remarkable son. He then thought about how he might send him abroad and wondered what major his son should

[†]Chos skyong skyabs. 2019. Educating a Son. *Asian Highlands Perspectives* 58:411-412.

² <https://bit.ly/35XD2iZ>, accessed 17 January 2020.

choose. Aware that the world was rapidly changing, he was at a loss, thinking about the future job market. He was troubled by ideas and discussion surrounding AI (Artificial Intelligence), biotech, and infotech.

The TED talk had been about how education kills human creativity. Rdo rje now questioned everything he had thought was the best way to educate his son. Perhaps he had not prepared him for a future that would require critical thinking, creativity, and adaptivity.

TIBETAN TERMS

chos skyong skyabs མོས་སྤྱོད་སྤྱོད་བས།

rdo rje རྡོ་རྗེ།